appeared in the Tribune on November 6, 2001 refers to the demand of Joint Secretary/Assistant Secretaries associated with various National Sports Federations for benefits like House Rent Allowance (HRA), City Compensatory Allowance (CCA), Transport Allowance, LTC, GPF, PPF and promotional benefits which are generally admissible to Government employees other than the Basic Pay & Dearness Allowance. The Govt. has received several representations from the employees of National Sports Federations in which they have demanded benefits which are admissible to all Government employees.

(c) The National Sports Federations are autonomous organizations engaged in promotion of Sports. They are being provided assistance by the Government for holding of National Championships, purchase of sports equpment and partcipation of Indian teams in International sports events. The Federations are also reimbursed the salary of the paid Assistant Secretaries/Joint Secretary in the pay scale of Rs. 5500—9000 and Rs. 6500—10500 plus dearness allowance. No other allowance namely, house rent allowance, city compensatory allowance, medical allowance, LTC etc. are admissible to Assistant Secretaries/Joint Secretary as per the existing Government guidelines. Since they are employees of autonomous organizations, the terms and conditions of employment are to be determined by their employers and it may not be logical for them to claim pay and allowances at par with Government employees. Due to budgetary constraints, it is also not possible for the Government to extend any additional benefits as requested in their representation. However, the National Sports Federations are at liberty to consider extending these benefits to their Assistant Secretaries/ Joint Secretary from their own resources.

Supply of Non-Banned and Herbal Medicines by SAI

2116. SHRI BRATIN SEN GUPTA : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether before participation in any major international competition the Sports Authority of India had been supplying Ayurvedic medicines to athletes to boost their performance;

(b) whether the positive test found in the weight lifter is because of non-banned substances and herbal medicines;

(c) if so, what are the facts of the case; and

(d) the steps being taken by SAI to resolve the issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI P. RADHAKRISHNAN) : (a) No Sir.

(b) to (d) In the recent past Ms. Kunju Rani, Weight-lifter was found positive for Strychnine (a stimulant) during 2001 Senior Asian Weight-lifting Championship in Korea. So far action against the sports-person is concerned, the concerned National Sports Federation is the competent body to resolve any outstanding issue.

Fine on Cricket Players

2117. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY :
SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU :

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that six Indian cricket players have been fined for breaching the International Cricket Council Code at Port Elizabeth;

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government in this regard;

(c) whether Government propose to issue any directions against this kind of unjustified order, keeping in view the dignity of Indian cricketers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI P. RADHAKRISHNAN) : (a) Six players of the Indian Team were penalised by the match referee. Out of six, five were fined.

(b) to (e) The Government considers this matter as an issue between the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) and the International Cricket Council (ICC) to be sorted out by them. The Government does not propose to issue any directions in this regard.

Panels selecting Sports Awards

2118. SHRI R.P. GOENKA : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) the present composition of the panels for selecting sports persons for various categories of Awards, including the Arjuna Awards;